(a) whether any demand has been made to start Rajkot-Delhi flight;

(b) if so, whether Indian Airlines has started any flight on this route;

(c) the number of passengers who have travelled by air from Rajkot and Surat to various parts of the country during the last three years by Indian Airlines and Jet Airways.

(d) whether the proposal as mentioned in (a) above is being implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) At present, no scheduled operator including private scheduled operator is operating any service to/from Surat. The details of number of passengers carried by Indian Airlines/Alliance Air and Jet Airways from Rajkot to Mumbai during the last three years are as follows:

Year	No. of Passengers Indian Airlines/Alliance Air	Jet Airways
2000-01	22323	28193
2001-02	14810	33787
2002-03	9036	46405

(d) and (e) Operational constraints and commercial considerations do not permit Indian Airlines to introduce direct services between Delhi and Rajkot. However, airline operators are free to operate on any sector subject to traffic demand and compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines.

Air India in Low Cost Airlines Business

2856. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that premium airlines around the world are entering the low cost airlines business by launching no frill subsidiaries

and Air India has decided to follow suit to retain its passenger payload; and

(b) if so. what are the details of this plan and the impact of this degradation of quality and customer satisfaction on the airlines business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Some premium airlines have started low cost no-frill airlines as subsidiaries in the wake of the success of some new low cost airlines. Air India has not yet taken any decision to set up a low cost airlines as its subsidiary.

Apex Fares of Al and IA

2857. SHRI RAJU PARMAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines and Air Indian have introduced APEX fares for various sectors;

(b) if so. the details thereof togetherwith fares on each sector;

(c) whether other private airlines have also announced similar scheme and their fares are less as compared to fares of Indian Airlines/Air India; and

(d) if so, the details of concessional fares and schemes announced by private airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Apex fares, an Advance Purchase Scheme was introduced by Indian Airlines on limited domestic sectors for travel commencing on or after 1st August, 2002 with validity upto 31 st October. 2002. The scheme has been extended upto 31 st March. 2004. Under the modified scheme effective 7th June, 2003, there are two levels of fare i.e. D-7 (booking made 7 days before the date of departure) and D-21 (booking made 21 days before the date of departure). The details of the sectors and fares are given in the enclosed statement. *(See* below) Air India has not introduced any APEX fares.

(c) and (d) Information relating to APEX fare schemes introduced by private airlines are not maintained by Government.